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MOTION

WE MOVE that the Administration work with the Health Department and Cincinnati's emergency responders, i.e. the Police and Fire Departments, and Emergency Medical Teams, to provide a report on the feasibility of an Emergency Psychological Trauma Team who would be dispatched to locations where violent crimes have occurred simultaneously with emergency responders. These personnel would coordinate with other emergency personnel to evaluate those people "exposed" to violent crime (i.e. victims and witnesses) for psychological trauma resulting from the violent crime.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Emergency Psychological Trauma Team, where possible, provide immediate psychological services and/or make referrals for long-term psychological treatment, as deemed necessary by the initial assessment.

Yvette Simpson

Councilmember Yvette Simpson



STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati has an interest in preventing violent crimes. Cincinnatians who are witnesses or victims of violent crimes experience trauma that can permanently affect their physical and mental health. Additionally, evidence suggests those who are affected by violent crimes are more likely to perpetrate violent crimes because of the trauma they already experienced.

To prevent violent crimes from being perpetrated by victims and witnesses of previous violent crimes, those persons need to be provided psychological treatment to alleviate the effects of trauma-related health conditions. Providing psychological evaluation and treatment immediately after the traumatic event and a referral for long term treatment are both vital in this effort.

Boston, Massachusetts has a similar program where witnesses and victims of violent crimes are offered or referred to psychological treatment resources within 72 hours of the event. (See attached Boston Globe Article) Initiated by the City's Health Commission, the program is being piloted in 8 neighborhood health centers in Boston. Each health center has two full time staff members specifically trained in treating the effects of trauma. One is a Clinician and the other is a Community Health Worker. Both provide supportive services for victims and witnesses of violent crime. (See attached testimony from the Boston Health Commission's Executive Director)